

Message Text

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H - MISS FOLGER (INFO)
IO/P - MR. BLACHLY
EUR/P - MR. SAVAGE
NEA/ARN - MR. KORN
AF/P - MRS. RUSSELL

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R 231947Z SEP 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY SANAA
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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

GGENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING SEPTEMBER 23,
1974:

QUOTE: Q. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING ON KING HUSSEIN'S ANNOUNCE-
MENT THAT JORDAN WILL PULL OUT OF THE NEGOTIATIONS ON THE
MIDDLE EAST AS A RESULT OF THE STATEMENT MADE BY PRESIDENT
SADAT OVER THE WEEKEND?

A. WHILE OBVIOUSLY THE STATEMENTS MADE OVER THE WEEKEND IN
CAIRO, AMMAN AND JERUSALEM REFLECT DIFFERING VIEWS THAT
CONTINUE ON THIS QUESTION, I JUST WANT TO SAY THAT THE
SECRETARY OF STATE IS CONTINUING HIS CONSULTATIONS ON THE
NEXT ROUND OF THE PEACE-MAKING PROCESS, ON WHICH I'M AFRAID
I CAN'T GET INTO ANY SUBSTANTIVE COMMENT.

Q. CAN YOU ANNOUNCE THE DATE OF THE SECRETARY'S DEPARTURE
FOR THE MIDDLE EAST?

A. NO, I'M SORRY, I CANNOT. IT IS WELL KNOWN THAT HE IS
PLANNING A MIDDLE EASTERN TRIP, BUT I DON'T HAVE ANY DATES

FOR YOU.

Q. AND WHAT HAPPENED OVER THE WEEKEND WILL NOT AFFECT THAT
PLANNING.

A. NO.

Q. WHERE DOES THE SERIES OF BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS THAT
WERE ANNOUNCED ON PRESIDENT NIXON'S TRIP TO EGYPT STAND?
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I RECALL AT THE TIME OF THE TRIP, IT WAS SAID THAT THERE
WOULD HAVE TO BE A SERIES BEFORE THEY COULD GO BACK TO
GENEVA. HOW CLOSE TO THE END OF THAT ARE WE?

A. WELL, AS YOU KNOW, THERE WAS AN EXTENSIVE ROUND OF
MEETINGS WITH LEADERS FROM THE AREA WHO WERE HERE IN THE
PAST MONTH. THERE HAS BEEN THIS DISCUSSION OF A SECRETAR-
IAL VISIT TO THE AREA EARLY NEXT MONTH. AND GIVEN THESE

TWO TRACKS, I WOULD SAY THAT THESE CONSULTATIONS HAVE BEEN CONTINUING, AND DO CONTINUE NOW IN NEW YORK.

Q. MY QUESTION WAS HOW CLOSE TO THE END OF THAT PERIOD ARE WE?

A. THAT IS HARD TO SAY.

Q. WILL THE SECRETARY'S EFFORTS NOW HAVE TO AWAIT THE RESULTS OF THE ARAB SUMMIT MEETING AT THE END OF OCTOBER?

A. I CAN'T REALLY SAY. BUT, LOOK, LET ME ADD ONE THING TO THE RECORD THAT MIGHT HELP THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE CONCERNED WITH SCHEDULING AND WHAT-NOT -- THAT AS FAR AS THE SECRETARY IS CONCERNED, HE IS DETERMINED TO MAINTAIN THE MOMENTUM TOWARDS A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT IN THE MIDDLE EAST WHICH BEGAN WITH THE DISENGAGEMENTS IN THE SINAI AND IN THE GOLAN HEIGHTS, AND THAT AS A PIECE OF THIS, WE HAVE HAD THIS SERIES OF INTENSIVE TALKS OVER THE PAST FEW WEEKS, AND PRESENTLY IN NEW YORK, AND WILL PRESUMABLY HAVE FOLLOWING ON THIS PERIOD FURTHER TALKS.

Q. IN CONNECTION WITH THAT, IS THERE ANY INTENTION TO MEET IN NEW YORK THIS WEEK OR NEXT WEEK WITH THE DELEGATION REPRESENTING THE PALESTINIANS TO THE UN, SINCE THEY NOW APPARENTLY HAVE A FORMAL DELEGATION IN NEW YORK, AND ARE NOT REPRESENTED BY ANOTHER ARAB STATE.

A. ANY INTENTION OF THE UNITED STATES?

Q. YES.

A. NOT TO MY KNOWLEDGE, NO.

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Q. CAN YOU CONFIRM, AS SUGGESTED IN THE QUESTION, THAT THERE IS AN OFFICIAL, SEMI-OFFICIAL, PRIVATE DELEGATION OF THE PALESTINIANS IN NEW YORK?

A. WELL, BEYOND WHAT YOU ALL ALREADY KNOW, THAT THE PLO DOES HAVE AN INFORMATION OFFICE IN NEW YORK, THAT HAS NO OFFICIAL CONNECTION WITH THE UN. AND THAT THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION IS INSCRIBED ON THE AGENDA. BUT I CAN'T REALLY CHARACTERIZE FOR YOU WHAT THE NATURE OF THEIR REPRESENTATION IN NEW YORK FOR THIS DISCUSSION WILL BE. I JUST DON'T KNOW.

Q. DID THE UNITED STATES SUPPORT THE EFFORT TO PLACE THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION ON THE AGENDA?

A. LET ME PUT IT THIS WAY. WE DID NOT OPPOSE IT.

Q. I MEAN DID YOU VOTE FOR IT?

A. I DON'T BELIEVE IT WAS HANDLED IN THAT FORMAT.

Q. THERE WAS NO VOTE.

Q. WHY DOESN'T THE UNITED STATES WANT TO MEET THE DELEGATION OF THE PALESTINIANS AT THE UN? IS IT NOT A LOGICAL OR ADVISABLE STEP BY THE UNITED STATES, TO DO IT?

A. WELL, I DON'T THINK IT WOULD NECESSARILY BE LOGICAL, AS YOU SAY, AT THIS POINT FOR US TO HAVE SUCH A MEETING.

Q. WHY WOULD IT NOT BE LOGICAL?

A. WELL, THE PLO, IF IT IS REPRESENTED AS SUCH IN NEW YORK TODAY, DOES NOT REPRESENT A GOVERNMENT. THE QUESTION OF ALL PALESTINIAN ISSUES IS INSCRIBED ON THE AGENDA. THERE IS NO RESOLUTION BEFORE US AS A MEMBER OF THE UN, NO PROPOSAL TO DO ANYTHING -- AND ANY DISCUSSION ABOUT WHY WE SHOULD TALK TO CERTAIN GROUPS OR OTHER GROUPS IS PRETTY HYPOTHETICAL.

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Q. I NOTICED IN THE SECRETARY'S SPEECH TEXT TODAY THE WORD "JUSTICE" WAS USED IN RELATIONSHIP TO DISPLACED PERSONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST, NAMELY, THE PALESTINIANS. IS THIS THE FIRST TIME THAT TYPE OF LANGUAGE HAS BEEN USED? SHOULD WE TAKE THIS AS GOING BEYOND THE NORMAL FORMULA, WHICH IS "LEGITIMATE INTERESTS"?

A. WELL, LOOK, YOU ARE MORE EXPERT IN THIS THAN I AM. I WOULDN'T TRY TO EXTRAPOLATE ON THE SECRETARY'S REMARKS. THEY WILL HAVE TO STAND ON THEIR OWN.

Q. FOR PURELY SCHEDULING PURPOSES, CAN YOU GIVE US ANY GUIDANCE AT ALL ON THE TWO TRIPS COMING UP, AND WHAT IT MOST LIKELY LOOKS LIKE NOW -- THE DATES?

A. WELL, ON SOLID DATES, NO. WE ARE TALKING ABOUT EARLY OCTOBER FOR ONE, LATE OCTOBER FOR ANOTHER. AND I WILL JUST HAVE TO LEAVE IT. WHEN WE HAVE IT NAILED DOWN, WE WILL BE IN TOUCH.

Q. AN EGYPTIAN NEWSPAPER SAID THAT THE SECRETARY WILL BE IN EGYPT ON OCTOBER 9. CAN YOU CONFIRM THAT?

A. AS I SAY, I WILL JUST HAVE TO LEAVE IT THAT WHEN I AM
AT LIBERTY TO GIVE YOU DATES LIKE THAT, I WILL DO IT
FORTHWITH.

Q. AN ISRAELI NEWSPAPER SAID HE WOULD BE IN JERUSALEM ON
THE 12TH. NO -- THE 13TH.

A. LET ME TAKE REFUGE IN THE PLURAL -- THAT WHEN WE ARE
PREPARED TO TELL YOU, WE WILL. END QUOTE. INGERSOLL

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